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## THE 21ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF PERSONALITY

## HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT TRAITS AND PERSONALITIES - CHALLENGES AND CERTAINTIES

25-28 May 2023  
Sighișoara, Romania

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### BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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## HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT TRAITS AND PERSONALITIES - CHALLENGES AND CERTAINTIES

Sighișoara, România, 25-28 May 2023

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## THE AMBIGUITY OF DEPENDENCE AND THE TORMENTS OF AUTONOMY

Mircea Lăzărescu

In the medical-psychiatric tradition that suggests the derivation of psychopathological states from normal natural experiences, the evolutionary-cultural doctrine suggests the cultivation of the respective functional structures - from which the abnormal variants derive - by the adaptive socio-cultural parameters. The specific of histrionic personality disorder is considered the exaggerated, hyper-expressive captivating behavior (hence the name, the Histrion being an actor in the ancient theater). Histrionic chameleonism moves the condition of the person into the role of an actor dependent on "spectators", undermining his autonomy. Another abnormal personality dimension refers to the need for continuous support of one's own agency, through the decision-making capacity of a determined person - a fact that refers to the traditional condition of perpetual slave-executor. But, the dependence on other-others is marked by ambiguity... by refusing the risks that their responsible autonomy implies. The problem of personality disorder casuistry thus provokes us to extensive anthropological debates.

**Keywords:** histrionic personality disorder, dependent personality disorder, anthropological debates

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## MASS HYSTERIA IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

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Mass hysteria or mass psychogenic illness is a social phenomenon, a form of collective anxiety, due to a perceived threat that can culminate in a cascade of symptoms suggesting an organic disease without an identifiable cause. Two types of mass hysteria have been identified, namely episodes of acute anxiety and abnormalities of motor behavior (convulsions, uncontrollable laughing or crying and pseudoseizures, gait problems, and trance states).

Throughout history, many such situations have been described that occurred in certain tense socio-cultural contexts (eg. dance mania, the Salem witch trials, the insect plague, the laughing epidemic in Tanganyika, and the chemical attacks in Afghanistan and Iran).

But mass hysteria can also be expressed through the existence of a multitude of collective imitative behaviors - deviant, irrational or abnormal behaviors resulting from a defective social order. For example, the COVID pandemic can also be considered a "digital infodemic". Through the spread of fake news, a collective anxiety was created that generated wrong information about medicinal or non-medicinal remedies, through the stigma attributed to certain population groups, and through the international tensions that were based on the place of emergence of the SARS-Cov2 virus.

The term mass hysteria has constantly changed, in relation to the historical, socio-cultural, and scientific background of the researchers. Knowing and preventing mass hysteria is of particular importance due to the problems that may arise in the field of public health –depression, alcoholism, drug use, suicide – but also the difficulties in the social and political fields.

**Keywords:** mass hysteria, public health, socio-cultural context

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## HYSTERICAL AND DEPENDENT TRAITS IN THE THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIP

Emese Lukacs<sup>1</sup>, Aurel Nireștean<sup>1</sup>, Elena Gabriela Strete<sup>1</sup>, Lorena Mihaela Muntean<sup>1</sup>

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Any therapeutic relationship between the psychiatrist and the patient involves the interaction between the dominant personality traits of those involved, an interaction that can be approached from a dimensional perspective but also from the perspective of disharmonious features of personality. This interaction largely conditions mutual expectations, compatibility, and the objective component of the relationship between those involved. Developing personality traits alongside exploring the psyche's content, facilitates the diagnosis's accuracy and an individualized therapeutic approach. Excessive need for support, lack of self-control, shallowness, superficial charm, and seductive and manipulative behavior can be a challenge to the dynamics of doctor-patient relationships. In the same context, submissiveness, indecisiveness, transference of responsibility, hypersensitivity to criticism, and lack of dignity interfere with the duration and quality of the therapeutic alliance.

**Keywords:** therapeutic relationship, hysterical traits, dependent traits

## TO BE OR NOT TO BE HISTRIONIC?

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Histrionic personality disorder is a psychiatric disorder characterized by a level of exaggerated emotionality and attention-seeking behavioral patterns. This type of personality disorder is found in Cluster B, along with narcissistic, antisocial, and borderline personality disorder. People with histrionic personality disorder are described as seductive, charming, manipulative, impulsive, and full of life, with a constant need to be the center of attention. Dramatic personality disorder, as it is often called histrionic personality disorder, is considered to be a multifactorial psychiatric pathology, being caused by genetic and socio-familial factors. Certain professional categories are characterized by drama and theatricality. Their need to be in the center of attention often determines the organization of their entire personal and professional life around a disharmonious core, with great potential for histrionics. In this context, can we stipulate that professional activity could actually be one of the factors that determine the appearance or decompensation of a histrionic personality disorder?

**Keywords:** disorder, personalities, histrionic, professional activity

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## HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS IN LIFE ROLES – DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENDERS

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When we talk about personality, those features considered to be persistent, rigid, and with negative implications about good functionality in life roles, generate uncomfortable feelings and interpersonal problems and outline the picture of what we call personality disorders. Two of these, are represented by histrionic personality disorder and dependent personality disorder. Although these two personality disorders are clinically diagnosed more often in women than in men, the prevalence proved to be similar in some studies. What could be the cause leading to this phenomenon whose consequence is the overdiagnosis of women combined with the underdiagnosis of men? Can these disorders manifest differently depending on belonging to a certain gender or could it be due to stereotyped concepts regarding the qualities and attributes that each gender should possess in the main areas of functioning? Are the histrionic and dependent personality disorders characterized by the exaggeration of some traditionally feminine traits, as is also applied in antisocial personality disorder in the case of men, or are all these just prejudices?

**Keywords:** histrionic, dependent, personality disorders, life roles, gender differences

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## HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER – COUPLE CHARACTERISTICS

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Histrionic personality disorder is characterized by a strong desire to be the center of attention and discomfort when not in that position. Individuals with this disorder believe they are entitled to attention and feel unappreciated when they are not the focus. They exhibit attention-seeking behaviors such as approaching others to inquire why they haven't greeted them or interrupting conversations to redirect attention to themselves.

They also engage in sexually seductive or provocative behavior to draw attention, often flirting openly with others or engaging in intimate displays in social or work settings. This behavior can lead to conflicts and confrontations, especially when involving love interests or the spouses of others.

People with histrionic personality disorder display rapidly shifting and shallow expressions of emotions. They lack depth and authenticity in their emotions, often faking sympathy or congratulations to maintain attention. They also consistently use their physical appearance to draw attention, dressing seductively and enhancing their features to attract others.

Their speech style is excessively impressionistic and lacking in detail, focusing more on tone and delivery than substance. They exhibit self-dramatization, theatricality, and exaggerated expressions of emotion to gain attention. However, these behaviors can strain relationships and lead to social isolation.

Histrionic individuals are highly suggestible and easily influenced by others or circumstances, particularly those they perceive as important. They may fall victim to scams or manipulation. They also tend to consider relationships more intimate than they actually are, often believing acquaintances or famous individuals are their best friends.



Overall, individuals with histrionic personality disorder struggle to maintain attention and can experience distress when unable to do so. Their attention-seeking behaviors, shallow emotions, and susceptibility to influence can impact their relationships and well-being.

**Keywords:** histrionic, relationships, victim, attention, behavior

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## TALENTS AND SKILLS OF HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITIES

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Histrionic and dependent personalities exhibit certain traits and behaviors that can be either beneficial or detrimental depending on circumstances. Histrionic personalities exhibit traits of egocentrism, a need for attention, exaggerated expressiveness, and excessive seduction, making them suitable for professions that involve interaction with the public, such as acting or television presenting. At the same time, these personalities may be predisposed to dramatization and exaggeration, which can negatively affect interpersonal relationships and work performance.

On the other hand, dependent personalities feel an excessive need for care, can be insecure and passive, which leads to difficulties in decision-making and expressing their own opinions. However, they are often loyal and cooperative, making them a valuable member in a work team. In any case, it is important for these traits to be recognized and for individuals to work on developing communication skills, assertiveness, and self-confidence, in order to be successful in their personal and professional lives. The reference traits can become the support for individual aptitudes and talents that enhance the individual's personality.

In conclusion, personality traits should not be a limitation, but a source of strength and personal growth.

**Keywords:** histrionic, dependent, personality, traits, skills.

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## AFFECTIVE IMMATURITY IN HYSTERICAL AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITIES

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Affective immaturity represents an imbalance between affective and cognitive processes, producing a psychological rigidity, disproportionate reactions manifested by infantile conduct. Emotional immaturity is the inability of a person to correctly express his feelings or cope with emotions. People who are emotionally immature may also exaggerate in certain situations or have difficulties controlling their impulses. It has been recognized for a long time that dependent personality disorder and histrionic personality disorder have at least one important common characteristic, both are immature affectively, being rooted in exaggerated, inflexible attention needs, together having a long psychoanalytic history. The purpose of this article is to analyze and describe according to literal resources how the affective immaturity is manifested and how it affects the lives of those with dependent personality disorder and histrionic personality disorder.

**Keywords:** affective immaturity, dependent personality, hysterical personality.

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## HISTRIONIC TRAITS IN PROFESSIONAL ROLE DYNAMICS AND HIERARCHIES

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Proper functioning in the professional role remains an important desire because of the multiple implications it entails through integration and adaptation to the work environment, interpersonal relationships with colleagues and superiors, as well as through the need for a balance between work and personal life. The existence of certain traits or even personality disorders can make it difficult to function at work by reporting incorrectly to superiors, causing misunderstandings or even conflicts between colleagues, low productivity with a lower workload than colleagues, unjustified absenteeism as well as by poor adaptation to stressful situations. In the case of the histrionic personality that is characterized by immaturity, it may often feel that it must be treated preferentially by resorting to various manipulations in order to obtain these treatments. That is why it is necessary to be aware of and develop some skills to properly manage these personality traits in order to maintain an optimal level of function at work.

**Keywords:** histrionic personality, professional role, skills, work environment

## PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITIES IN HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS

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Personality disorders can build a whole world around a human being that they may see as quite impossible to adapt to. The specific features or symptoms of personality disorders can be significantly various but are all generally stable over time and inflexible. The relationship between personality traits and psychiatric disorders is complex and multifaceted. Recognizing the role that personality traits play in the development, course, and treatment outcomes of psychiatric disorders is essential for clinicians to provide the most effective and personalized care.

Researchers have long recognized that dependent personality disorder (DPD) and histrionic personality disorder (HPD) share at least one important feature: heightened sensitivity to criticism, the need for safety and approval, and the need for confirmation. Unlike dependent personality disorder, which is characterized by its docile and self-effacing behavior, people with histrionic personality disorder have flamboyant behaviors and active but superficial demands for attention. Both DPD and HPD are associated with a variety of Axis I and Axis II disorders, and some of these relationships are more powerful than others. Because of their excessive need for comfort and wellness, people with histrionic or dependent personality disorder may be more addicted to drugs or alcohol. The abuse of prescription medications is also common among people with dependent and HY personality disorders. People with DPD are at risk for depression, anxiety disorders, and phobias. They are also at higher risk of being abused because of their vulnerability and willingness to do virtually anything to maintain unconditionally the relationship with a person of authority or dominant partner. People with HY are at risk for depressive disorder (MDD), somatic symptom disorder, conversion disorder, suicide, eating disorder, and sexual disorder.

**Keywords:** personality disorder, dependent, histrionic.

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## DEPENDENT FEATURES IN COUPLE RELATIONSHIP

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The prevalence of dependent features in psychiatry raises many problems of classification, etiology, and therapeutic approach to mental illnesses. Studies show that dependence is associated with insecurity, difficulties in making decisions, and fear of loneliness, but also with marked possessiveness and jealousy in different relationships, especially in couple relationships.

We intended an evaluation from the perspective of the couple's relationship, the way in which the dependent features of the partners interfere with the functioning and harmonious development of the couple. We also studied the role of the couple in the evolution of patient's comorbidities. Early involvement in a couple's relationship, and also its quality, can become protective factors, or on the contrary, risk factors of psycho-behavioral relapses of patients with dependent personality disorders.

Interpersonal relationships in couples can also create conditions of self-awareness regarding low self-esteem and vulnerability in patients with dependent personalities. This way we can create psychotherapeutic and socio-therapeutic strategies.

**Keywords:** dependent personality disorder, couple relationship, therapeutic

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## SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR IN HYSTERICAL AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS

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Suicidal behavior has a complex determinism, which exceeds the framework of psychiatric pathology, through the combination of biological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors. The most important model in relation to the factors involved in suicides is the individual personality, whose structure can condition the suicidal phenomenon in a complex way.

In the case of pathological personalities, the structure of the ego and the particularities of self-esteem favors an egocentric behavior. The impulsive and self-aggressive potential is mainly associated with cluster B personality disorders, but under certain conditions also with anxious structures. The particularities of interpersonal relationships in histrionic personality disorder are the expression of fragile and inauthentic sociophilia corresponding to low self-esteem and the compensatory need for valorization by challenging the entourage. The superficiality of histrionic style can be found in suicide attempts, predominantly demonstrative. In the case of dependent personality disorder, we specifically have a sociophilia corresponding to an intense need for attachment. At dependent people, the suicidal process and the type of suicide vary depending on the quality and duration of the attachment relationship. When these don't correspond to the needs and expectations of dependent subjects, suicide attempts with low life risk may appear, having as a goal to impress the dominant person, but also attempts with increased life risk in case of breaking up.

The attitude and relations with others in the case of both personality types, is also reflected in the attitude towards themselves, and this also corresponds to the suicidal phenomenon. Thus, the evaluation of suicidal risk in personality disorders can bring safety measures for the patient, together with the improvement of therapeutic strategies which will lead to increasing functional capacity and the relational skills of the person in the roles of life.

**Keywords:** suicide, behavior, personality disorder, histrionic, dependent.

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## THE INSTINCTUAL LIFE OF HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITIES

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Freud defined the id as the oldest and the most primitive psychic agency, representing the biological foundations of personality. It is a reservoir of basic instinctual drives, particularly sexual (libidinal) drives, which motivate the organism to seek pleasure. More recently the field of affective neuroscience identified seven emotional systems common in the brains of humans and animals. The seven emotional affects are 1) seeking, 2) rage/anger, 3) fear, 4) care, 5) panic/sadness, 6) play and 7) lust. Homeostatic affects, such as hunger or thirst, are in a different category from emotional affects, since they are less relevant to mammalian psychopathology and personality. This paper examines the instinctual life of individuals with histrionic and dependent personality disorders from a biological perspective. Drawing on the theories of Freud and affective neuroscience, the paper explores the seven emotional systems common in the brains of humans and animals and their role in motivating behavior. By comparing the differences and similarities between histrionic and dependent personalities, the paper aims to contribute to our understanding of these complex disorders and their underlying biological mechanisms.

**Keywords:** histrionic, dependent, personality disorder, instinctual drives, affective neuroscience, emotional system, id

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## THE DEPENDENT PERSONALITY IN FILM, ART, AND LITERATURE

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Being dependent on another person is a life experience shared by people from different backgrounds, it crosses boundaries of culture, gender, and ethnicity but becomes pathological when it causes personal distress and impaired role functioning. This paper addresses the understanding of the creative process from the perspective of dependent personality disorder. By analyzing the social, cognitive, motivational, and emotional dispositional dimensions, it is found that people with dependent personalities have limited creative qualities because their self-confidence, desire to work independently, struggle with others to defend the creative idea, open-mindedness, motivation to contradict the rules are reduced, except for the affective dimension, which displays traits necessary to the artistic, creative act, namely anxiety, emotion, sensitivity. Even if dependent personalities are recognized as being less creative than other types of personalities (borderline, narcissistic, antisocial), art, the creative process as a form of expression, remains a valid reference point in the occupational therapies approached to increase the well-being of these patients and a way of portraying their reality in film, painting, literature.

**Keywords:** dependent personality disorder, creativity, art therapy, portrayal

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## INTEGRATED COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY FOR DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDER

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The psychological treatment of personality disorders typically involves a complex therapeutic approach, consisting of different cognitive-behavioral therapy techniques, combined with other complementary therapeutic models. In this way, there are individual therapeutic protocols describing the specific steps that should be followed by the clinician in the treatment of personality disorders. However, especially among cluster C personality disorders, and particularly in people with Dependent Personality Disorder (DPD), the level of anxiety and/or depression can be significantly elevated for most patients, so various avoidance and reassurance behaviors occur. Therefore, besides the standard techniques, CBT interventions for DPD should also include mindfulness, emotional regulation, and strategies for behavioral change.

**Keywords:** Integrated Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Dependent Personality Disorder, strategies for behavioral change

## HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDER IN A FRIENDSHIP RELATIONSHIP

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Personality is a deciding factor when we talk about the success or failure of trying to get a friendship. Often, a friendship is based on sharing the same values and creating a sense of belonging. In any type of relationship, there are also differences, but when this connection is made between two individuals with a normally structured personality, also the differences are integrated naturally and harmoniously.

A friendship with a dependent or histrionic personality can be a challenge and emotionally draining, due to their characteristic features regarding the affective, cognitive, or behavioral components.

Although these two types of disorders have many features in common, the differences between them, make the friendship between a histrionic and a dependent doomed to failure. Each type of personality disorder can have a friendship or romantic relationship with an individual with another type of personality disorder but they are often toxic.

**Keywords:** Histrionic and dependent personality disorder, friendship relationship, sense of belonging

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## DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES OF HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER

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One of the main areas of interest at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was an interesting disorder named hysteria. Today this diagnosis is not used anymore under this form by the scientific community as it was meanwhile deconstructed into more diagnoses. As for today, histrionic personality disorder seems to be the basis of this former diagnostic construct as the other component diagnoses (conversion disorder, somatic symptom disorder, and dissociative disorders) can represent decompensations or even manifestations (in milder forms) of the aforementioned personality disorder.

While hysteria was so well acknowledged and studied before, histrionic personality disorder does not benefit of the same attention. Experts are even considering removing this diagnosis because of the overlap with other personality disorders. However, this propensity to mimic other personality disorders or even other diseases (by decompensation into the other aforementioned related diagnoses) makes this personality disorder important in the differential diagnosis of the other disorders as it has a better prognosis than most of the disorders it mimics.

In conclusion, this paper provides a synthetisation of the differential diagnosis of the histrionic personality disorder and by extension also the differential diagnosis of the other disorders that it can decompensate into. In this way, it tries to emphasize the relevance of this disorder for the medical community.

**Keywords:** histrionic personality disorder, differential diagnosis, hysteria

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## HYPNOTHERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDER

Elena Gabor

Hypnotherapy is a form of therapy that uses hypnosis to induce a state of deep relaxation and increased suggestibility in a patient. Through hypnosis, the doctor can access the subconscious mind of the patient, where the patient can explore past experiences and beliefs, and suggest positive changes to aid in healing and growth.

Histrionic personality disorder (HPD) and dependent personality disorder (DPD) are two conditions that can improve with hypnotherapy. Both HPD and DPD are characterized by a pattern of behavior that involves emotional instability, heightened reactivity, and a need for validation and support.

Suggestion Therapy is a method of hypnotherapy that uses positive suggestions to influence the patient's subconscious mind. During hypnotherapy sessions, the patient receives positive suggestions such as “I am a confident and independent individual” or “I am worthy of love and respect.” These positive messages can help to reprogram the patient's subconscious beliefs and encourage more positive behaviors.

Regression Therapy, on the other hand, is a form of hypnotherapy that involves exploring past experiences and memories that may be impacting the patient's current behaviors and beliefs. Through regression therapy, the patient can be helped to access forgotten or repressed memories and work through unresolved issues that may be contributing to their HPD or DPD.

Overall, hypnotherapy can be an effective tool in the treatment of HPD and DPD. By accessing the subconscious mind and suggesting positive changes, or exploring past experiences to gain insight, patients can gain a deeper understanding of themselves and their behaviors, and make positive changes to improve their well-being. ‘

**Keywords:** hypnotherapy, histrionic, dependent personality disorder

## INTERFERENCES BETWEEN HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS

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Histrionic expressions can be found along the entire range of personality disorders, covering a diversity of symptoms and behaviors that potentially mimic/reproduce those of other psychiatric or somatic disorders. Thus, the diagnosis of HPD can represent a challenge to mental health professionals. Out of all PDs, HPD can be most frequently confused for NPD, BPD, or DPD.

The present work aims to analyze the interferences of HPD and DPD, by initially setting the psychodynamic conceptualization of the self, followed by an inquiry into psychopathology. The phenomenological analytical framework follows similar and distinct cognitions underlining specific behaviors, affective responses, and particular interpersonal relationship patterns common to these PDs

**Keywords:** histrionic personality disorder, dependent personality disorder, psychodynamics

## HISTRIONIC EYES: ON BLINDNESS AND SUNKEN IRISES IN THE WORKS OF CONSTANTIN BRÂNCUȘI

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Brâncuși practices a paradoxical gaze. Bare eyes, augmented in excessive stares, dramatize an exophthalmic myopia. Their blindness hides in excess, while the sculptor opens pupils elsewhere.

The present paper proposes a rereading of the morphology of Brâncuși's eyes, based on the works gathered in the retrospective *“Brâncuși. Sublimation of form”*, curated by art historian Doina Lemny, at the Bozar Palace in Brussels, between October 2, 2019 and February 2, 2020, within the 27th edition of the EUROPALIA International Arts Festival.

What we want to demonstrate is the fact that, in the ophthalmological register, Brâncuși operates with eclectic anatomies, building an “abcular hypothesis”.

The philosopher Jacques Derrida said that in its depth structure, the eye is not made to see, but to cry. In his obsession with finding the perfect shape of the eye, Brâncuși builds a bizarre optical device, a histrionic gaze, which opens outside the retina for which sight seems to be no longer relevant.

The perforated eyes of his children's faces or Mademoiselle Pogany's exophthalmic pupils, resized on a Platonic scale, take on a decorative air, because Brâncuși's characters do not necessarily need to see.

Between blindness and tears, Brâncuși's eye is freed from *persona*. As in Plato's Republic, the gaze fictionalizes the truth. Innocent prey to the infinite game of reflections, the gaze cannot function as a testimonial in relation to the world and, even less, to the world of ideas.

Therefore, Brâncuși suspends it, drawing eyes that cease to see. The creator of modern art opens retinas elsewhere.

In compensation for an eye that suffers of amblyopia, în the art of Brâncuși, the matter itself begins to see.

**Keywords:** histrionic eyes, ophthalmological register, persona

## PARENTAL REPORTS IN DEPENDENT PERSONALITIES

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People with dependent personalities are characterized by their wish of being protected and their dependent behavior can have a negative impact on themselves and on others.

Dependent personalities can have a great impact on the parent-child relationship. People of all ages seek guidance and support from their parents but when a parent has dependent traits, the boundaries can become unclear. Parents can depend on their children and this role switch can deprive the youngsters of proper development, in this case, the caretaker becomes the cared for.

The aim of our paper is to emphasize how people with dependent personalities can influence parental reports.

**Keywords:** dependent personalities, protected, relationship, support, development

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## DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDER AND PHYSICAL ABUSE - ARTISTIC REFLECTIONS

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What do Jane Eyre, Lolita, or even Rihanna, Eminem, or Stephen King have in common? They all refer in one form or another to addictive personality disorder. Dependent personality disorder is characterized by a person's excessive need for someone else to take care of them, leading to pervasive submissive and dependent behavior. Often these individuals are vulnerable to mental and physical abuse and the relationships, in which they are involved, both complex and destructive, have been explored in art in various forms: literature, cinema, and music. These works expose the devastating consequences of this type of behavior as a means of exploring and raising awareness in our society.

**Keywords:** dependent personality disorder, physical abuse, artist.

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## THE PSYCHODYNAMIC APPROACH TO HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDERS

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The psychodynamic theory aims to elucidate human behavior by analyzing internal psychological processes and recurrent interpersonal patterns that are frequently beyond an individual's conscious awareness and are rooted in their childhood experiences. The psychodynamic theory proposes several theoretical perspectives that are relevant to understanding histrionic and dependent disorders, one of them is *ego psychology* theory in which dependent and histrionic personality disorders develop due to disruptions in the development of the ego, leading to difficulties with self-regulation, impulse control, and interpersonal relationships. In dependent personality disorder, the individual's ego may not have developed a strong sense of self and may rely excessively on others for validation and decision-making, while in histrionic personality disorder, the individual may have an overdeveloped ego that uses attention-seeking behaviors to cope with underlying feelings of inadequacy.

In histrionic and dependent personality disorders, individuals may use adaptive and defense mechanisms as ways to cope with their underlying emotional and psychological distress, such as repression that involves keeping thoughts or feelings that are deemed unacceptable, threatening, or anxiety-provoking out of conscious awareness or compliance, which involves going along with the opinions and requests of others to avoid conflict and maintain social harmony.

Overall, the psychodynamic theory suggests that early life experiences and unresolved that early life experiences and unresolved conflicts can play a significant role in the development of personality disorders. By exploring and resolving these conflicts in therapy, individuals may be able to gain a better understanding of their own behavior and develop more adaptive coping mechanisms.

**Keywords:** psychodynamic approach, histrionic, dependent personality

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## THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING IN HISTRIONIC AND DEPENDENT PERSONALITY DISORDER

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Quality of life is a concept that aims to note the well-being of an individual or a population, even if we are talking about both positive and negative aspects of life at a given moment. People feel fulfilled in relation to themselves only when they become aware of the satisfactions that arise from involvement in life roles and valuable interpersonal relationships. The state of subjective well-being is an essential attribute of the psyche and individual personality, which underlies self-fulfillment and combines the feeling of personal identity with that of belonging to the world around. Personality disorders are dysfunctions of how the individual lives and thinks about himself, about others, or about the world, mani-

festing as non-adaptive patterns of cognition, emotion or behavior. A histrionic personality disorder is characterized by a behavioral pattern of continuous attention-seeking and intense emotionality. A dependent personality disorder is characterized by a person's exaggerated need for someone else to take care of them, which leads to submissive behavior, dependence, and fear of separation from the person they depend on.

**Keywords:** quality of life, subjective well-being, dependent personality disorder

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## HYSTERICAL PERSONALITIES IN FILM, ART, AND LITERATURE

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Histrionic personality disorder affects 2-3% of the average population, the most affected being females. Patients with histrionic personality disorder are often characterized by selfishness, egophilia and are associated with low self-esteem, which facilitates a constant attempt to invoke attention, admiration, and support from others. Often their behavior is theatrical, manipulative, demonstrative, and hyper-expressive. Furthermore, their behavior and emotional life are characterized by immaturity, emotional lability, and superficial experiences without a deep emotional resonance. In interpersonal relationships, patients with a histrionic personality disorder may be characterized by exaggerated suggestibility, but at the same time, they may be domineering with an inauthentic, blackmail style.

The most famous hysterical personality in literature and cinema is represented by Scarlet O'Hara, the protagonist of the masterpiece "Gone with the Wind" brought to the screen by the talented actress: Vivien Leigh. Scarlet, besides being a very beautiful and ambitious woman, can be characterized as a person who wants to be constantly in the center of attention, constantly needs the admiration of others, and has seductive behavior towards the opposite sex, yet is superficial and careless in her relationships.

**Keywords:** hysterical personalities, behavior, film, art, literature

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## BORDERLINE, NARCISSISTIC AND HYSTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDERS – INTERFERENCES

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When it comes to cluster B personality disorders, NPD, HPD AND BPD were, at all times, subjects of constant debate regarding their common or similar roots/causes, their common traits and also their frequent overlaps. The three PD are still very difficult to separate due to their similar coping styles, triggers, behaviours and also their shared frame of emotions which greatly influence their relationships and also their response to treatment, be it pharmacological - used for the frequent decompensations, or therapy. In our analysis we are trying to capture and emphasize their interferences regarding not only their traits and facets but also their innate preferences for coping with reality and their view of it, for emotions and feelings and also for relationships and behaviours.

**Keywords:** borderline personality disorder, narcissistic personality disorder, histrionic personality disorder, interferences, coping styles, relationship, behaviour, traits

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## HYSTERICAL TRAITS IN RELATION TO RELIGION

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Apparently obsolete and carrying a rather historical than a clinical importance, mainly because it was split by modern literature between several diagnostical categories that make it less stigmatizing, but more difficult to understand in its inherent complexity, the concept of hysteria defines a sum of signs and symptoms, both mental and physical, closely related to the psychopathological manifestations and the behavioral echo of some specific disharmonious personality traits. The closest personality disorder to hysteria is the Hystriotic PD, but the overlap of the two entities is just a partial one and it cannot explain the whole hysterical phenomenology. The purpose of this article is to analyze the existent literature resources for a possible link between the dimensional features of hysterical personalities and religiosity, as well as the way in which the dynamics of spiritual life is impacted by the pathological personality traits.

**Keywords:** hysteria, personality disorder, religion

## HISTRIONIC TRAITS IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE PARENTAL FAMILY

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A good number of adults who have self-esteem problems or suffer from anxiety and depression were raised by histrionic mothers as children. Women with histrionic personality disorder have a low level of empathy. Not only that, but they tend to relate to their children as beings who must obey without question, "objects" to be decorated and displayed to the world. Mothers with histrionic personality disorder are impatient, critical, quick to anger, and tend to occupy all of their child's intimate space.

Because they are extremely sensitive to criticism themselves, mothers with histrionic personality disorder cannot accept the idea that they could be wrong. Unable to accept that they are wrong, these mothers fail to develop intellectually and emotionally beyond a certain threshold. They establish absurd rules that their child must follow, a child who - later - will notice with amazement that his mother does not respect the rule. They will treat him with indifference and withdraw his affection as a method of punishing him, scold him often, and constantly check if he follows the rules they set. The criticism will come according to the emotional fluctuations of the mothers but will be motivated otherwise, usually through a much-inflated fault of the child.

Adults who have such a childhood littered with drama and criticism from their mothers will have difficulty understanding what happened in the past and why they developed in a certain way. Almost without exception, like adults, they will have frequent anxiety and low self-esteem. Some develop performance anxiety, others obsessive-compulsive personality disorder. In the case of some, their self-esteem is so damaged that they experience episodes of anger. Equally common as a result of such a difficult childhood are borderline, dependent, and avoidant personality disorders.

**Keywords:** histrionic personality disorder, parental family, adaptative mechanism

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## HYSTERICAL AND DEPENDENT TRAITS – CROSS-CULTURAL PARTICULARITIES

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Hysterical and dependent traits have always been part of the human personality structure. They are more or less conscious and periodically mark individual behavior. We meet them mainly in women, in which case they can be - just as obviously - adaptive or maladaptive. Psycho-behavioral manifestations corresponding to hysterical and dependent traits have marked cultural conditioning. Thus, in life roles and interpersonal relationships, hysterical traits are dominantly adaptive in contemporary postmodern society and maladaptive in traditional societies such as Asian ones. On the other hand, dependent traits prove to be mainly disadvantageous for the individual in Western society but favor performance in roles, interpersonal harmony, and quality of life in traditional societies. The recognition of hysterical and dependent structural dominants - which otherwise interfere with and condition each other - remains a desideratum for the structuring and manifestation variants of some first-rate adaptive mechanisms. And this, regardless of the particularities of the socio-cultural environment.

**Keywords:** hysterical traits, dependent traits, cultural environment

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## CHALLENGES AND LIMITS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TESTAMENTARY CAPACITY OF THE DECEASED

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Post-mortem assessments for testamentary capacity are relatively rare in Romania, and there is little data available on the number of cases in which they are conducted. However, it is likely that they are becoming more common as the population ages and as concerns about the validity of wills and other estate planning documents increase.

The primary purpose of the research was: to retrospectively assess the weight of forensic psychiatric expertise in Mures County.

We aim to improve the understanding of retrospective testamentary capacity assessment for medical experts, to provide more useful reports for court determinations and to provide a methodology for retrospective testamentary capacity assessment

We retrospectively carried out a post-mortem assessment of testamentary capacity, within the IML, Tg Mures, in the period 2019-2022. This involved reviewing medical records, interviewing family members and others who had contact with the deceased, and interpreting cognitive tests where the case was.



Cognitive impairment is common among the elderly. In our study of legal cases involving testamentary capacity, it was found that the majority of cases involved elderly individuals, and the most common reason for contesting the validity of a will was due to the determination of discernment, with only two cases of the determination of undue influence.

We also encountered four cases in which people's cognitive decline was caused by a treatable condition that was not diagnosed during life.

However, there have been some high-profile cases in which disputes over a person's testamentary capacity have led to post-mortem assessments. This can be particularly challenging in cases where the person's cognitive decline was caused by a treatable condition that was not diagnosed during their lifetime. These cases highlight the importance of post-mortem assessments for testamentary capacity in resolving disputes over a person's estate and ensuring that their wishes are carried out in accordance with their actual intent.

Overall, post-mortem assessments for testamentary capacity can be complex and challenging and require a thoughtful and nuanced approach. As well post-mortem assessments for testamentary capacity can provide valuable information and potentially prevent legal disputes. It is important to carefully consider and address the limitations and potential provocations involved to ensure that the assessment is conducted in a fair and impartial manner to avoid emotional impacts on family members and loved ones, particularly if the results challenge or contradict their understanding of the deceased person's mental capacity.

**Keywords:** testamentary capacity, mental capacity, post-mortem assessments, cognitive impairment, undue influence



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